

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on June 2, 2005. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9-12, 14-16, 20-28, 31, 34, 35, 37, 38, and 41 are amended. Claim 5 is cancelled. Claims 1-4, and 6-42 are pending.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 5-13, 15-17, 20-30, and 34-42 contain allowable subject matter.

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. Claim 22 is amended herein to overcome the indefiniteness rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 14, 18, 19, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Beier (US 5,836,215).

Claims 32 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beier.

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections in view of the amended claims and the following comments.

Discussion of Amended Claims

Claim 1 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Claim 5 is cancelled to avoid duplication of claimed subject matter.

Claims 7, 15, 20, and 34, each of which contains allowable subject matter, are each amended into independent form by inclusion of the subject matter of claim 1.

Claim 22 is amended to depend from claim 20 in order to overcome the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, withdrawal of which is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 9-12, 14, 16, 21, 23-28, 31, 35, 37, 38, and 41 are amended to conform to the amendments made to claims 1, 7, 15, 20, and 34, and/or to improve readability of the claims.

Accordingly, each of the pending independent claims includes subject matter indicated by the Examiner as being allowable. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in condition for immediate allowance.

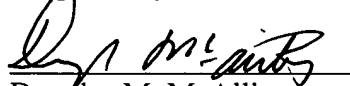
Further remarks regarding the asserted relationship between Applicant's claims and the prior art are not deemed necessary, in view of the amended claims and the foregoing discussion. Applicant's silence as to any of the Examiner's comments is not indicative of an acquiescence to the stated grounds of rejection.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider this application, allow each of the pending claims and to pass this application on to an early issue. If there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed in order to place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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